



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

**MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING**

Wednesday, April 28, 2021
9:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87902479542?pwd=bHhISnBLM0JqL2w4SUNkMWZNOU FKUT09>

Password: **9ZZZZZ**

Phone: (866) 390-1828 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 394127

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chair, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Alan Styles, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Lynnae White, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League
Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Ann Searles, Deputy Director, Bureau of Fire Services
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division
Robert Stokes, Region 2 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division
Liam Carroll, Certification Specialist, Fire Fighter Training Division
Andrea Keown, Department Technician, Fire Fighter Training Division/Recording Secretary
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal (virtual meeting moderator)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Adam Brown, Detroit Metro/Willow Run Fire Department
Adam Carroll, Hartland Deerfield Fire
Allen Sutherby, Morton Township Fire Rescue
Amy Dunn, Riverview Fire Department
Andy Bezenah, RAFT
Andy Down, Long Lake Township Fire Department
Andy Steeby, Wayne County Community College District RTC

Andrew Pfeifle, Armada Twp. Fire Department
Aric Massingill, City of Adrian Fire Department
Bill Parker, Blair and Paradise Township Fire Department
Bob Hoffman, Midland Professional Fire Fighters
Brandon Cory, Marquette City Fire Department
Brett Miller, Alpena Fire Department
Brian Hatfield, Delta Twp. Fire Department
Brian Kanigowski, Roseville Fire Department

Christopher Mantels, Saugatuck Township Fire Department
Chris Stoecklein, Canton Township Fire Department
Christopher Van Loo, Saginaw Fire Department
Corey Aulbachm, Tri-Township Fire Department
Corey Nicholson, City of Port Huron Fire Department,
Daniel Oleniczak City of Muskegon Fire Department
Darin Balinski, Oxford Fire Department
Dave Brogan, Dearborn Heights Fire Department
Dave Glotzbach, Muskegon Twp. Fire Department
Dave Hornbacher, Hillman Volunteer Fire Department
David Feichtner, Springfield Township Fire Department
David Hendon, Eaton Rapids Fire Department
David Murray, Ada Twp. Fire Department
David Pelton, City of Walker Fire Department
Dennis Van Tassell, Wyoming Fire Department
Doug DenBleyker, Graafschap Fire Department
Ed Elliott, Clinton Township Fire Department
Eric Alonzo, Farmington Hills Fire Department
Eric MacKinnon, Frankenmuth Fire Department
Eric Thomas, Clinton Twp. Fire Department
Greg Ball, Oakland Township Fire Department
Greg Flynn, West Bloomfield Fire Department
Greg Kowalski, Wayne County Community College District
Greg Mowbray, Brighton Area Fire Authority
John Leroy, Bloomfield Twp. Fire Department
JC Sicard, Plainfield Fire Department
Jason Annala, Ishpeming City Fire Department
Jed Wild, Portage Fire Department
Jeff Friedenstab, Iron Mountain Fire Department
Jeff Johnson, City of Novi Fire Department
Jeff Roberts, City of Wixom Fire Department
Jeff Ross, Bay City Department of Public Safety
Jeff Sims, Marquette Twp. Fire Dept Rescue
Jeremy Holbrook, Napoleon Twp. Fire Department
Jerry Becker, Harrison Community Fire Department
Jesse Marcotte, Northville Township Fire Department
Jim Bronson, Clio Fire Department
Jim Daveluy, Midland Fire Department
Jim Fisher, Gerrish Twp. Fire Department
Jim Lundberg, Ensign Twp. Fire Department
Jim Peterson, Macomb Twp. Fire Department
Jim Stevenson, Warren Fire Department
Joel Boyer, Sauble/Elk/Eden Townships Fire Department
Joel Britt, Roseville Fire Department
John Martin, Novi Fire Department
Johnny Meniffee, Southfield Fire Department
Joseph Feinauer, Bangor Township Fire Department
Joseph Tuckey, Tecumseh Fire Department

Josh Dorman, Waterford Regional Fire Department
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
Justin Fox, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Keith Anderson, Trenton Fire Department
Ken Hobbs, City of Ypsilanti Fire Department
Keith McMillan, Muskegon Fire Department
Kirk Wilkinson, Burton Fire Department
Kurt Corradi, Bay City Fire Department
Kurt Nitschke, Village of Holly Fire Department
Kurtis Gear, Plainfield Fire Department
Kyle Lewis, Northville Township Fire Department
Kyle Svoboda, Plainfield Twp. Fire Department
Leonard Ruthruff, Allegan Fire District
Marc Volger, Ann Arbor Twp. Fire Department
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Twp. Fire Department
Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Matt Majestic, Oxford Fire Department
Matthew Covey, Waterford Regional Fire Department
Michael Gregorich, Marquette Township Fire Rescue
Michael Hewartson, Muskegon Fire Department
Michael McLeieer - Michigan State Firemen's Association
Michael Yanz, NIESA
Michelle Hart, Michigan Townships Association
Mickey Wiewiura, Dearborn Heights Fire Department
Mike Capel, Graafschap Fire Department
Mike Vogt, Burton Fire Department
Mike Keefe, Allendale Fire Department
Nathaniel McCoury, Midland Fire Department
Nick Gettel,
Nick Miller, Hamburg Township Fire Department
Nick Oberst, Delta Township Fire Department
Paulley Nowacki, Utica Fire Department
Phil Hall, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Roger Bebeau, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety
Robert Smith, Dexter Area Fire Department
Robert Wight, Monroe Fire Department
Sam Peterson, Oakfield Twp. Fire Department
Scott Tackaberry, Warren Fire Department
Stephanie Johnson, Michigan Association of Chiefs
Steve Adams, Benzonia Twp. Fire Department
Steve McKellar, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Steven Chartier Muskegon Fire Department
Teresa Robinson, Lansing Fire Department
Terry Chesney, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Theodore Schroeder, Torch Lake Fire Department
Thomas Stuck, Milford Proving Grounds Fire Department

Tim Duncan, Clinton Twp. Fire Department
Tim Heyl, Bruce-Romeo Fire Department
Todd Stevenson, Cascade Fire Department
Tom Konik, Marysville Fire Department

Vaskin Badalow, Dearborn Heights Fire Department
Wendy Stevens, Frenchtown Fire Department

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Before **Chairperson Tackett** called the regular meeting to order, he announced a roll call vote will be done for any motion put forth to council during this meeting and read a virtual meeting introduction advising of the procedures for the meeting, public comment, and the steps that would be taken if the meeting were disconnected. A moment of silence was also acknowledged.

Chairperson Tackett called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM, a roll call was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – present
Councilperson Blomstrom – present
Councilperson Styles – present
Councilperson White – present
Councilperson Blackmer – present
Councilperson Janik– present
Councilperson Steichen – present
Councilperson Pettinger – present
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – present

A quorum was determined present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

21-04-11

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to approve the April 28th, 2021 special meeting agenda, as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes
Councilperson Styles – yes
Councilperson White – yes
Councilperson Blackmer – yes
Councilperson Janik– yes
Councilperson Steichen – yes
Councilperson Pettinger – yes
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. COMMUNICATIONS:

Councilperson Pettinger and **Councilperson White** asked for clarification regarding language changes to the rules. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier clarified to council the language may look different than what was submitted due to language changes from MOAHR and from public comments.

Councilperson Steichen let attendees know that all public comments, whether in support or opposed to the rules, were printed and given to council for review. Thanked those who submitted written and spoke at the public hearing for voicing their opinions.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Review Public Comments on Fire Fighter Training Council General Rules: Fire Marshal Sehlmeier started off by explaining that it is the intent of the Bureau of Fire Services to release all public comments and the public hearing transcript to the public after the meeting. Council is the body who works on the rules and wanted to ensure that council had access to it beforehand in preparation of the meeting. The bureau received 59 comments in support of the rules and 51 in

opposition of the rules. Andrea Keown shared the draft rules on screen and council spent a substantial amount of time working through the document to address items and clarify language brought forth by public comments. After a brief break council discussed whether or not to move the Draft Rules forward in the JCAR process, it was decided to move the Draft Rules ahead.

21-04-12

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to vote to move the Draft Rules forward to MOAHR.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – no
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes
Councilperson Styles – no
Councilperson White – yes
Councilperson Blackmer – yes
Councilperson Janik – no
Councilperson Steichen – yes
Councilperson Pettinger – yes
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

Six votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids Fire Department: Wants to thank council for meeting and having the frank and candid discussion and making sure that all represented parties were equally represented. Believes there has been a lot of movement forward to make the fire service in Michigan better. Not everything was in everyone's wishes and ways but it's truly a step in the right direction and it is the right decision to move the rules forward.

Greg Flynn, West Bloomfield Fire Department: Thanks the members of council for the work put in today. Plans to digest a lot that was talked about and see what that looks like, some of the commitments for changing in the ProBoard and what that all is going to take and understand that but definitely see what the intent is and appreciates that. Very pleased with today and there is a lot to think about and appreciates the work today.

Jeff Roberts, City of Wixom Fire Department: Wants to thank everybody for their hard work. Appreciates the work that has gone in to this. It has been a tumultuous undertaking but feels it will best serve the Michigan fire service if there was a mandatory delay to go through the rules one last time.

Terry Chesney, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union: Everyone did a great job today. Concern is that if council comes back and has another meeting and other changes are made, then each council member will have to go back to their groups and talk before they can approve the new changes, if any. Today council could have come to this meeting with no changes and moved it along and nothing would have went back to the other groups. You are here to represent your groups and you should have an understanding of how your groups feel and you should know that ahead of time. Changes were made but there was nothing that came out of the clear blue that you shouldn't be able to act on. I think you did the right thing by moving on and I look forward to having JCAR approve this. Thanks for all your hard work.

VI. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Chairperson Tackett: I'm not really going to add too much more that everybody else didn't say but I'm not going to disagree or make arguments or points, but I do want to thank everyone for their hard work for the last 2-3 years or however long you've been on council. I do want to thank you guys for all your time and effort and understanding, give and take and all the other things that were mentioned earlier.

Councilperson Blomstrom: Very exhausting day but a lot of good things have come out of this meeting in regard to the compromise that is there. We've done a lot of compromising back and forth as to get this document to the shape that it's at. We are put here both by the groups and appointed

by the governor to make decisions and we have had 3 years of taking these ideas back and forth to our organizations, talking to constituents and at some point we have to be able to make that vote. That is why I voted "yes" today. A lot of good compromise, I think the document came out better than when we started it. I'm looking forward to seeing what happens in a positive manner when this goes on to JCAR. Thank you.

Councilperson Styles: Thanks everybody for everything, fellow council members. We did a lot of give and take and that's what this is about. I just want some time to digest things, I think we have a document and it's really close. I just want to make sure that we're winning for the fire service in Michigan and I know we will. Thank you.

Councilperson White: Thank you to everybody and I voted "yes" today because just like everyone else has said, we are put on here to make decisions. We have beat these up and thrown a lot of bones out and hopefully we get some bones thrown back to us, not at us. It is time to get these rules going and we did compromise a lot. We've got a really good document and I look forward to getting this thing done. Thank you.

Councilperson Blackmer: I think the process worked today. We voted awhile back to move it to the next step, it went to the next step, we had public comment, and I spent a considerable amount of time reading through those. Everybody that sent a letter in, I read the letter. I think it is important for people to know that we took the time to do that. If they took the time to write in, they deserve our respect for us to take the time to read it and try to understand their views. I think we addressed the major things we were asked to do. It's a negotiation process, it's what's good for everyone as a whole. I think that's what we accomplished and feel good about that. I think we can look at the firefighters in our state and all of the organizations we represent and believe that we came out with a document that really does represent what we want to accomplish in the state of Michigan. It's time to move these forward, get these approved, and get back to work. It would be great for council to tackle some other training projects. I think we did well, and it was a long day, but I think we all need to keep our heads high with what we accomplished here today.

Councilperson Janik: I'm pleased with what we've done today as a group. There were many compromises, it was strong work. I'm disappointed, this is too big for the fire service that we couldn't take a couple days, I respect the council, there is no reflection on you individually, for me this isn't about me, it's about the fire service. I don't get it that we can't wait 3 or 4 days, but you've made your decision, so we'll see where it goes from here. I think it was great work on a number of levels. Thank you.

Councilperson Steichen: This is a tremendous opportunity to be a part of this rules process. It's been definitely a learning experience for myself as well as everybody else as well. I didn't know what to expect today after the public hearing and after digesting the public comments from last week. I 100% feel this document was improved today. I'm proud to say that this is where we're at and I look forward to seeing it move forward and allowing the fire service to reap the benefits of what we've done over the last 3 years. Thank you for letting me be a part of it and thank you for everybody's time today.

Councilperson Pettinger: Thanks to everyone for being so patient. That was a lengthy work session, but I think we really reviewed all the information, all the pros and cons and communications we received. There was a lot of compromise and I feel confident in this document that we've been working on. Thank you for everyone's attendance today.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer: Thanks council and I hear both sides. The reality is that each member of council is serving in a volunteer capacity and not being compensated to be on council. If you're keeping track of the numbers, we're up in the high 40's in the number of meetings. I think we hit on all the major issues today. I hope that we can move forward in this process, I hope that we can get united, that we can get behind it because this document is not the document we started with. There was a lot of compromise and a lot of change. I've never before seen the amount of work that we have put into these rules. We should be proud of this document and that it is for the best of the fire service. We should be united and can and will get this done. Thank you for your work today. The amount of sharing back and forth is impressive, there is a lot of knowledge on this council, and I'm honored to have served with you on these rules. Thank you.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT:**

21-04-13

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to adjourn the special meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes
Councilperson Styles – yes
Councilperson White –yes
Councilperson Blackmer – yes
Councilperson Janik– yes
Councilperson Steichen – yes
Councilperson Pettinger – yes
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

MINUTES APPROVED: August 8th, 2021 Regular Meeting. Motion 21-08-02